

American Flat/Lucerne Access Right-of-Way

Application from Comstock Mining

What Authorization is Comstock Mining Currently Working Under?

Mining activities on privately-owned lands in the Lucerne and Billy the Kid Pits are under a Special Use Permit issued by Storey County in 2004 and amended in 2011.

On July 6, 2012 the BLM issued a ROW for Comstock Mining's use of the public land segments along the American Flat Road as a "haul road" between the pit area and heap-leach processing facility.

What Request is Before the BLM?

On August 29, 2012 Comstock Mining submitted to the BLM a Plan of Development/Right-of-Way application to amend their existing ROW to include the “Lucerne haul road” that crosses several segments of public lands.

What Decision Would the BLM Make?

The question before the BLM is whether to amend the existing ROW to allow for use of an alternative haul road across public land segments.

The BLM **will not** make a decision on whether or not mining can occur on privately-owned lands.

Does this Project Involve Mining on Federal Land?

No.

- * The ROW is not being processed under 3809 (the BLM mining regulations).
- * There is no mining on public lands.
- * Comstock Mining has not submitted a Plan of Operations [a mining plan] for mining on public lands; the existing mining activities on privately-owned lands are not subject to BLM decision-making.

Is an EIS required?

An environmental impact statement is required if a project would have significant effects.

The BLM has determined that an environmental assessment is the appropriate level of compliance required for this project.

Starting the Process

On November 26, 2012 the BLM and Comstock Mining reached an agreement on the process to move the ROW the forward.

On December 5, 2012 the BLM, Comstock Mining and consultants participated in a project “kick-off” meeting and site visit.

On December 18, 2012 BLM Cultural Resource Staff met with State Historic Preservation Officer staff to discuss the project and how to meet National Historic Preservation Act requirements for consultation.

Project Briefings

Scheduled for:

Tuesday January 15, 2013 at 2 pm at the Storey County Commissioner's Meeting.

Thursday January 17, 2013 at 6 pm at the Storey County Planning Commission meeting.

Public Scoping

The 30-day public scoping period is from **January 17, 2013 to February 16, 2013.**

Public Scoping

Two public workshops will be held at the **BLM's Carson City District Office on January 22, 2013 from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm**, and at the **Piper's Opera House in Virginia City on January 29, 2013 from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm**. These workshops will not be held in a hearing format.

Presentations will be held at **6:45 pm** and **7:45 pm**.

Environmental Assessment

Will be prepared to:

- * To evaluate the effects of the proposal;
- * Biological and cultural inventories will be performed;
- * There will be a 30-day public review period; and
- * A minimum two public meetings.

Other Concurrent Coordination

Including consultation to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act:

- * Tribal consultation;
- * Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer;
- * Consultation with other agencies; and
- * Public consultation.

Contact Information

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